

**Del Norte Middle School
ICAP Award Winner
Honorable Mention - 2017**



*Del Norte Middle School
Future Center Resources*



*Amy Duda, Principal, Robin Russel, CDE,
Stella Tapia, School Counselor*

At Del Norte Middle all teachers and the school counselor form a team for ICAP Implementation. We have 3 half days a year where everyone does ICAP. With this process the students see that ICAP is important to everyone at our school and not just the school counselor or a few people.

- The school counselor creates lessons/PowerPoints for each grade level. These lessons connect to the ICAP themes: college, career, and financial literacy.
- The teacher guides the students through the PowerPoint.

Everything students do on ICAP half days is to prepare for what they will be doing in high school for post-secondary options. We at the middle school feel that we are building a foundation, so when students go to high school they can start applying themselves instead of learning the terminology for the first time.

This ICAP process is meaningful for students because they get to discuss college, careers, and finances with their teachers and other students. I have seen teachers talk about their experiences in college and finding careers. Students really enjoy hearing their experiences. It is also meaningful because the whole class gets involved in the lesson, and it's not just one student filling out information from a computer. This process is meaningful to our 8th graders because they start to learn about what they will need in the real world. They are not far off from taking on a job. They learn to create resumes, fill out job applications, and ask for reference letters. All students create SMART goals and visit them on each ICAP day to see if they have hit their goal or what they need to do to adjust their goal.

This ICAP process has changed the culture of our school from non-existent to students understanding and using the vocabulary of post-secondary options. Before, the school counselor came students were not discussing post-secondary options. There was no ICAP in the middle school. Now, I hear students discussing their future, parents asking questions about planning their child's future, and teachers having rich discussions about their experiences and providing advice to students. Students love participating in our ICAP half days. Our hallways and bulletin boards consist of college and career terminology. Work that is done from students on ICAP days are hung in hallways for all to see.

The ICAP Process has impacted the students because they are talking about their future. They are dreaming and imagining what it will be like. Even though they are first generation, students see that they can be successful and there is help for them. Students are comparing each college visit and deciding at this age of what college is a right fit for them.

We have had students go to businesses in our community to learn about how to start that business and what education it takes to run or work at that business. The hope is for students to see that people that went to their school and graduated from Del Norte Schools are successful and have come back and opened up their own business. Our students are the future of our community and it is up to them to make our community successful. We also have families coming to family night to learn about their child's post-secondary options and the variety of financial aid that is out there for them.